

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 8 have been examined, and rejected over Fujikawa et al. Claims 2-4 and 8 are being amended herein and claim 1 is being canceled. Claims 5-7 and 9-16 have been withdrawn.

The amended claims recite apparatus that is structurally distinct over the prior art. Claim 2 is amended to refer to “liquid introduction pipes”, “liquid feed piping”, a “switch valve” and a “controller...an internal timer thereof”. The “liquid introduction pipes” are illustrated by element 2 in Fig. 2 of the subject application. The “liquid feed piping” is shown with numeral 4 in Fig. 1. The “switch valve” is illustrated by element 8 in Fig. 1. The “controller ... an internal timer thereof” is illustrated by element 13 in Fig. 1. The specification states, on page 9, lines 9-13, “A controller 13 opens and closes the switch valves 8 and 11 based on timing given by an internal timer 14 to transmit the chemical solution and cleaning liquid to the treating tank 1 through the liquid feed piping 4 by a predetermined sequence.”

Claim 8 is amended to depend from claim 2. The “chemical introducing device” in claim 8 is illustrated by element 9 in Fig. 1. The “branch pipe” is illustrated by element 10 in Fig. 1.

As amended, claim 2 highlights a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art (Fujikawa et al.). According to amended claim 2, the controller, based on timing given by an internal timer thereof during the cleaning treatment of the substrates placed in the treating tank, controls the switch valve to repeat a supplying step for supplying the cleaning liquid from the liquid feed piping, and a suspending step for suspending supply of the cleaning liquid. Fujikawa et al. disclose nothing about such an interactive coupling between controller and switch valve. In Fujikawa et al., as stated in Col. 4, line 46 to Col. 5, line 23, deionized water is continuously supplied from the water supply port 18 into the treating tank 12 during the cleaning treatment of substrates placed in the treating tank 12. Fujikawa et al. do not repeat a supplying step for supplying the cleaning liquid from the liquid feed piping, and do not have a suspending step for suspending supply of the cleaning liquid as done in the invention of claim 2.

With these advantageous features, with the supplying of the cleaning liquid and the suspension of the cleaning liquid supply repeated during the cleaning treatment of the substrates, there is no possibility of stagnations occurring constantly inside the treating tank. Particles

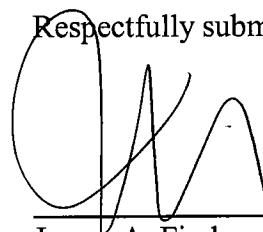
detaching from the substrates are made to overflow the tank to be drained positively with excess parts of the cleaning liquid.

Thus, the invention of amended claims 2-4 and 8 is neither anticipated by Fujikawa et al. nor obvious from Fujikawa et al.

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Respectfully submitted,



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